

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 11, 2004 has been carefully considered. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification for using the term "heterarchy". However, as explained from line 1 to line 13 of page 3 of the Specification, the term "heterarchy" describes a structure wherein an object can descend from more than one parent object at higher levels of structure. As such, the term "heterarchy" is correct throughout the specification.

In the Office Action, claims 19-36 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,880. Submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a Terminal Disclaimer wherein Applicant has agreed to disclaim the term of any patent issuing in relation to the present application which extends beyond the expiration of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,880. Applicant respectfully submits that the submission of this Terminal Disclaimer overcomes the outstanding obviousness-type double patenting rejection in relation to claims 19-36.

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicant respectfully urges that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 13, 2005

By: 
Eric K. Proul
Registration No. 45,025

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(650) 622-2300